

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(New Draft of S.P. 23, L.D. 24)
(New Title)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1601

S.P. 551

In Senate, May 12, 1983

Reported by Minority Report from the Committee on Transportation and printed under Joint Rule 2.

Original bill presented by Senator Kany of Kennebec. Cosponsored by Senator Baldacci of Penobscot, Representative Carroll of Limerick and Representative McGowan of Pittsfield.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE

AN ACT to Provide for Annual Motor
Vehicle Inspections.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §1369, 4th ¶, as amended by PL 1981, c. 437, §20, is further amended to read:

It is unlawful to operate on any highway any motor vehicle which is registered in this State, if the front windshield or the window at either end of the driver's seat or ~~the rear window~~ rear passenger's seat is composed of or has attached to it any opaque substance, semitransparent material or substance, such as signs, pictures or advertising so as to obscure in any way the operator's vision of the highway or any intersecting highway. When the glass in

1 either window is broken, the operator may make tempo-
2 rary repairs by placing an opaque substance therein
3 temporarily until a reasonable opportunity is
4 afforded for the replacement in accordance with this
5 section. The label attached to a window showing the
6 price estimated mileage and other federally mandated
7 information commonly known as the manufacturer's sug-
8 gested retail price label is excepted from the
9 limitation of this section.

10 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §1371-A, ¶¶ C and D, as enacted
11 by PL 1973, c. 344, are amended to read:

12 C. Tire tread depth shall be measured by a tread
13 depth gauge which shall be of a type calibrated
14 in 1/32 inch. Readings shall be taken in a 2 ad-
15 acent major tread groove grooves of the tire
16 nearest the center at 2 points in each of the
17 grooves of the circumference not closer than 15
18 inches. Readings for a tire which has the tread
19 design running across the tire or for a siped
20 tire, where such tread design is permitted, shall
21 be taken at or near the center of the tire at 2
22 points of the circumference not closer than 15
23 inches.

24 D. No tire ~~shall~~ may be deemed to be in safe
25 operating condition if such tire is worn to the
26 point where less than 2/32 inch of tread design
27 remains at ~~both~~ all 4 points at which gauge
28 readings are obtained.

29 Sec. 3. 29 MRSA §2502, first ¶, as amended by PL
30 1979, c. 607, §3, is repealed and the following
31 enacted in its place:

32 All motor vehicles registered in this State,
33 except as provided in this chapter, are subject to an
34 annual inspection as provided in this chapter.

35 Sec. 4. 29 MRSA §2502, sub-§2, as enacted by PL
36 1979, c. 464, §5, is amended to read:

37 2. Inspection fee. The inspection fee is ~~§3~~ §5
38 for each inspection and is payable whether the vehi-
39 cle passes inspection or not.

1 Sec. 5. 29 MRSA §2503, sub-§2, as enacted by PL
2 1979, c. 464, §5, is amended to read:

3 2. Windows. In addition to the standards in sub-
4 section 1, the front windshield and, front door win-
5 dows and windows at either end of the rear
6 passenger's seat shall contain 2-way glass that pro-
7 vides the occupants with a clear view of the road and
8 provides people outside the vehicle with a clear view
9 of the interior of the vehicle.

10 Sec. 6. 29 MRSA §2503, sub-§3 is enacted to
11 read:

12 3. Fenders. Except as provided by section 1404,
13 every motor vehicle shall be equipped with fenders or
14 fenders and extentions. Whenever a wheel and tire
15 are installed on a motor vehicle that permits the
16 tire tread to extend beyond the natural fender con-
17 figuration, those fenders shall be modified or
18 extended to provide coverage of the exposed tire
19 tread.

20 Sec. 7. 29 MRSA §2506, sub-§1, as enacted by PL
21 1979, c. 464, §5, is amended to read:

22 1. Motor vehicles registered or inspected in
23 another state. Motor vehicles owned and registered in
24 another state and vehicles registered in this State
25 displaying a valid certificate of motor vehicle
26 inspection from any state until its normal expira-
27 tion;

28 Sec. 8. 29 MRSA §2506, sub-§5, as amended by PL
29 1981, c. 117, §4, is further amended to read:

30 5. Farm trucks. Farm trucks as defined in
31 section 246 that are operated within a 20-mile radius
32 from the main entrance of the farm where the vehicle
33 is customarily kept. Farm trucks qualifying under
34 this subsection shall be submitted to a partial
35 inspection consisting of the running gear, steering
36 mechanism, brakes, exhaust system and, lights, and
37 section 1371-A, subsection 1, paragraph B.

38 A. Any farm truck subject to partial inspection
39 shall bear the name of the town in which the

1 excise tax is paid in 4-inch letters on the left
2 door of the cab of the truck; and

3 Sec. 9. 29 MRSA §2507-A, sub-§1, as amended by
4 PL 1981, c. 698, §137, is further amended to read:

5 1. Motor vehicles required to meet standard.
6 Except as provided in section 2507 regarding vehicles
7 requiring body repair, no dealer or holder of a
8 transporter registration certificate in new or used
9 motor vehicles may permit any vehicle under his own-
10 ership or control to be sold or transferred to
11 another person or legal entity for operation upon the
12 highways unless the vehicle meets the inspection
13 standards required by section 2503 and the rules and
14 regulations promulgated thereunder and has displayed
15 thereon a valid certificate of inspection issued
16 during the last 30 days prior to the date of sale or
17 transfer.

18 Sec. 10. 29 MRSA §2512, sub-§1, as enacted by PL
19 1979, c. 464, §5, is amended to read:

20 1. Vehicle ownership or maintenance. The vehi-
21 cles subject to inspection, which shall number at
22 least 10, shall be registered in the name of the
23 fleet inspection station owner or the owner shall be
24 under contract and solely responsible for the mainte-
25 nance of a fleet of 10 or more registered vehicles
26 registered in the name of a single owner.

27 A. Fleet station inspections shall be limited
28 exclusively to the vehicles defined in subsection
29 1.

30 Sec. 11. 29 MRSA §2512, sub-§4, as enacted by PL
31 1979, c. 464, §5, is amended to read:

32 4. Employment of certified inspection mechanics.
33 Every fleet inspection station shall employ a suffi-
34 cient number of certified inspection mechanics to
35 inspect every vehicle in the fleet ~~twice~~ annually.

36 A. Fleet vehicles shall be inspected by a certi-
37 fied inspection mechanic who shall issue and sign
38 inspection certificates.

1 B. Fleet vehicle inspectors shall be subject to
2 the same provisions as certified inspection
3 mechanics in this chapter.

4 Sec. 12. 29 MRSA §2513, sub-§2, as enacted by PL
5 1979, c. 464, §5, is amended to read:

6 2. Renewal of inspector certificates. An inspection
7 mechanic's certificate is valid for a period of
8 5 years from the date of issue. ~~The holder of such a~~
9 ~~certificate may apply at any time during the final 6~~
10 ~~months prior to its expiration without a reexamina-~~
11 ~~tion~~ No examination will be required if the mechanic
12 makes application within one year following the date
13 of expiration and upon payment of a \$1 fee. In the
14 event that the holder of an inspection mechanic's
15 certificate no longer performs inspections, he shall
16 expeditiously remit his license to the Chief of the
17 State Police. The holder of an inspection mechanic's
18 certificate shall notify the Chief of the State
19 Police of a change of place of employment prior to
20 inspecting any vehicles for the new employer.

21 Sec. 13. 29 MRSA §2518, sub-§1, as enacted by PL
22 1979, c. 464, §5, is amended to read:

23 1. Disposition of stickers. All inspection
24 stickers and materials issued to inspection stations
25 by the Chief of the State Police shall remain the
26 property of the State. Each official inspection sta-
27 tion shall stock a sufficient number of stickers to
28 meet their demands at all times. These shall be fur-
29 nished by the Chief of the State Police at ~~25¢~~ 50¢
30 each. The stickers shall be made of such material and
31 quality of adhesive as prescribed by the Chief of the
32 State Police. At the end of the calendar year, or if
33 the station license is suspended, any unused or
34 expired stickers shall, within 5 working days, be
35 returned to the Chief of the State Police and the
36 purchase price refunded, except that refunds shall
37 not be made for an amount less than \$1.

38 Sec. 14. 29 MRSA §2521, as enacted by PL 1979,
39 c. 464, §5, is amended to read:

40 §2521. Penalties

1 4. A minimum standard for tires for farm vehi-
2 cles subject to a partial inspection;

3 5. A better standard for tire tread to insure
4 motor vehicle safety;

5 6. Recertification of motor vehicle inspection
6 mechanics within one year following expiration of a
7 mechanic's certification with no examination;

8 7. Certification of fleet inspection stations
9 which are solely responsible for the maintenance of
10 10 or more vehicles;

11 8. State ownership of vehicle inspection stick-
12 ers which is consistent with state ownership of vehi-
13 cle registration plates; and

14 9. An increased penalty for willful violation of
15 the inspection law.

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